



SUPPLEMENTAL REISSUE DECLARATION

We, as the below-named inventors, hereby declare that our residences, post office addresses, and citizenships are as stated below adjacent our names, that we verily believe we are the original, first and joint inventors of the invention described and claimed in Letters Patent No. 5,235,581, issued August 10, 1993, and in the specification filed August 5, 1991, and for which invention we solicit a reissue patent; that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification of present Reissue Application No. 10/677,168 filed October 2, 2003, including the claims; that we acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to the examination of this Reissue Application No. 10/677,168 in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a); and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States prior to filing of Application Serial No. 740,629 filed August 5, 1991 (from which Patent 5,235,581 issued) by us or our legal representatives or assigns, except as follows:

Japanese Patent Application Nos. 02-212537  
filed August 9, 1990, 02-285006 filed  
October 22, 1990, and 03-044798 filed  
March 11, 1991.

The priority of Japanese application nos. 02-212537, 02-285006 and 03-044798 was claimed in said U.S. application and is also hereby claimed in this Reissue Application and certified copies are available in the patent file.

We further declare that we believe said Letters Patent is, through errors which arose without deceptive intent on the part of the applicants, wholly or partially inoperative by reason of claiming more or less than we had a right to claim in the patent. We hereby provide a statement of at least one error relied upon to support this reissue application, in that, the parent patent 5,235,581 failed to include a claim as follows:

A method of recording/reproducing an information signal onto/from N types (where  $N \geq 2$ ) of optical discs having first layers of different thicknesses, each of said optical discs having at least said first layer which is transparent and a second layer which is for storing information, said method comprising:

- (a) emitting a light flux from a semiconductor laser,
- (b) converging said light flux on said second layer of one disc of said N types of optical discs by employing a converging optical system having at least one of (i) different effective numerical apertures, (ii) different focal distances, and (iii) different working distances, wherein said converging optical system selects one of (i) a particular one of said different

effective numerical apertures, (ii) a particular one of said different focal distances, and (iii) a particular one of said different working distances in accordance with the thickness of said first layer of said one disc of said N types of optical discs,

(c) receiving said light flux reflected from said one disc by a photo detector,

(d) generating a reproduction signal from said photo detector in accordance with said received light flux, and

(e) discriminating the type of said one disc among said N types of optical discs by said reproduction signal from said photo detector.

Thus, the above-identified omission represents an "error" in the original patent under 35 USC 251.

All errors in the patent which are being corrected in the present reissue application up to the time of filing of this Declaration arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicants.

We hereby appoint the following as our attorneys of record with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office.

James E. Ledbetter, Registration No. 28,732;  
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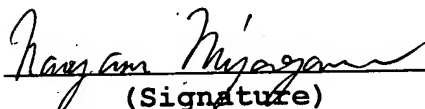
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We, as the undersigned inventors, further declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the reissue application or of any reissue patent to issue thereon.

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